

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, MS-32

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*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

October 1, 2007

John Boccio/George Farra
California Public Utilities Commission/Angeles National Forest
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

SCH 2007081156, Notice of Preparation for a Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project, Southern California Edison Company

Dear Messrs. Boccio and Farra:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation for a Joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (Project).

Caltrans is a Responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Project. While the exact locations of planned transmission line encroachment to the State Highway System (SHS) is unclear, potential impacts are indicated within three Caltrans Districts: District 7, Los Angeles County; District 8, San Bernardino County; and District 9 for the eastern portion of Kern County.

Our specific comments regarding preparation of the EIR/EIS:

- Identify the locations where the transmission lines will cross the SHS in the alternatives considered.
- Determine if access to and placement of new and existing transmission towers or poles, pull and splice locations and other transmission line infrastructure, via temporary spur roads and construction easements, will be through the Caltrans Right of Way (R/W).
- An Encroachment Permit is required for any encroachment onto the SHS R/W. The web link directly below connects to the Caltrans Encroachment Permits Homepage, which in turn links to the *Standard Encroachment Permit Application*.

<http://dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

For questions about the Encroachment Permit process and requirements, please telephone:

District 7: 213-897-3631
100 South Main Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90012

District 8: 909-383-4526
464 W. 4th Street, MS 619
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400

District 9: 760-872-0674
500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

- A Transportation Permit is required for the movement of vehicles/loads exceeding statutory limitations on the size, weight, and loading of vehicles contained in Division 15 of the California Vehicle Code. The link below is to the Transportation Permits Homepage.

<http://dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/permits/>

For questions about the Transportation Permit process and requirements, please telephone the South Region office at 909-383-4637. The South Region office is located at 655 West 2nd Street, MS-618, San Bernardino, CA 92404-1400.

If you have questions about our comments, please contact Cheryl J. Powell in District 7 via telephone at 213-897-3747 or e-mail: Cheryl_j_powell@dot.ca.gov; Dan Kopulsky in District 8 via telephone at 909-383-4557 or e-mail: dan_kopulsky@dot.ca.gov; or Gayle Rosander in District 9 via telephone at 760-872-0785 or e-mail: gayle_rosander@dot.ca.gov.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the preparation of the Project's environmental review.

Sincerely,



Betty Miller
Statewide Local Development-Intergovernmental Review Coordinator
Office of Community Planning

- c:
- D. Kopulsky, Chief, Special Studies/IGR-CEQA, District 8
 - S. Fong, IGR Coordinator, District 8
 - C. Powell, IGR Program Manager, District 7
 - G. Rosander, IGR Coordinator, District 9
 - S. Windenread, Permit Writer, District 9
 - S. Morgan, Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse